

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

As a first point, Applicants note that the Examiner failed to address Claims 47-51 which were added in the May 13, 2008 Amendment. Accordingly, the Final Office Action is incomplete. In the event that the application is not allowed in response to this request for reconsideration, it is respectfully requested that the finality of the previous Office Action be withdrawn and an Office Action addressing all pending claims, including new Claims 47-51, be issued.

In rejecting Claims 1, 2 and 14-23 for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement, the Examiner states that the specification fails to disclose that the antenna ends and the pads are electrically connected. Also, in rejecting those claims for allegedly being indefinite, the Examiner states that it is not known whether the antenna ends can be electrically connected to its pad by an insulating bridge. However, the fourth paragraph on page six of the Official Action states that the "insulating bridge 13 is produced by covering the turns of antenna 11 with an insulating layer 14 in a zone Z, then by depositing a conductive element 15 on this insulating layer 14, the conductive element 15 allow[s] the end of one turn... to be connected to one of the connection pads 12 of the antenna." It is quite clear from the above that, in the disclosed device, the conductive element 14 of the insulating bridge 13 electrically connects an antenna end to a pad.

For the above reasons, Claims 1, 2 and 14-23 are enabled and definite, and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2 and 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, the only rejected independent claim, is also rejected as being anticipated by Fidalgo.

Claim 1 recites a method for manufacturing smart cards, each having an antenna with ends or connection pads for connection to an electronic module, including producing, on a support sheet, the antenna with at least two turns and a pair of connection pads that are both disposed on a common side of said antenna turns, and electrically connecting at least one of the ends of the antenna to a respective one of the connection pads by means of a bridge disposed on a surface of the turns that is away from said support sheet

In the rejection, the Examiner identifies Fidalgo's thermoplastic sheet 3 as constituting a support sheet, and Fidalgo's contact terminals 15 as constituting connection pads. However, the Examiner also states regarding Fidalgo that "the terminal of antenna 5 electrically connected to contact zone 12 includes pads 10 and 11 of module and further, 10-13 create a bridge like structure". Therefore, it appears that the Examiner actually considers Fidalgo's metal pads 10 and 11 to correspond to the recited connection pads, and Fidalgo's conductive tape on the lateral faces 13 to correspond to the recited bridge. Should the Examiner's position regarding what Fidalgo discloses differ from the above discussion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's position be clarified.

In any event, Claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Fidalgo. Specifically, Claim 1 recites that the bridge is disposed on a surface of the turns that is away from the support sheet. It is quite clear from Fidalgo's Fig. 1 that Fidalgo's conductive tape on the lateral faces 13 is not disposed on a surface of the turns of antenna 5 that is away from the thermoplastic sheet 3. Accordingly, Fidalgo does not disclose

a bridge disposed on a surface of an antenna's turns that is away from a support sheet, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 47 was not rejected under any grounds. Indication of allowance of Claim 47 is therefore respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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